

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 remain in the application.

Applicant's Attorney acknowledges with appreciation the phone interview of the instant application with the Examiner on January 4, 2005 and the Examiner's helpful comments made during said interview.

DRAWINGS

Applicant has reviewed the drawings as originally filed and has determined that there are a number of errors in Figures 6-14. In fact, Figure 14 was inadvertently not included in the original filing but is described in the specification. Thus, Applicant is herewith submitting new drawings for Figures 6-14 with appropriate corrections in line with the description of the drawings in the description of the preferred embodiment.

Thus, these sheets, which includes Figures 6-14, replace the original sheets including Figures 6-13.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-10 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner on this ground of rejection.

Independent Claims 1 and 6 are directed to a glove which includes palmer protective padding overlying at least the distal halves of an index finger and a long finger metacarpal but excludes the metacarpal joints of the index finger and said long finger. Independent Claim 1 also includes the limitation of a thumb ulnar protective padding disposed along a thumb stall of a glove at a location adapted to be placed along an ulnar boarder of the thumb proximal phalanx between a metacarpal phalangeal joint at a

proximal interphalangeal joint. The positioning of the padding along the thumb ulnar and the palmer protective padding overlying at least the distal halves of an index finger and a long finger metacarpal allows for protection of the tendons and pulleys in this area of the hand while still allowing for flexibility of the metacarpal phalangeal joints of the index finger and the long finger as well as the metacarpal phalangeal joints of the thumb.

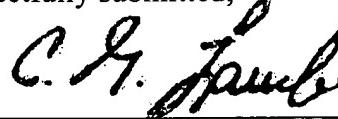
The Arnold reference is directed to a glove including means for retarding the penetration of heat through certain portions thereof. Specifically, Arnold does not teach the use of protective padding as claimed in the instant application and is directed to the inclusion of pockets within the glove with flat, heat-retarding plates identified by the numeral 8 which are generally formed of chipped or granular cork material firmly cemented together. Arnold teaches at column 2, lines 21-24, "that the spacing of the plates identified by the numeral 8 is intended to occur in general alignment with the knuckles of the hand so as to permit proper flexing of the several members thereof". However, as best shown in Figure 5, the plates 8 clearly cover the metacarpal phalangeal joints and therefore interferes with the movement of these joints. The plates 8 cover the palm of the hand, cover the distal ends of the metacarpals of all of the fingers, the metacarpal phalangeal joints and at least the proximal end of the proximal phalanx. Clearly, Arnold does not teach nor remotely suggest the absence of padding at the metacarpal phalangeal joints of the index finger and the long finger. Even further, in regards to the protective padding over the thumb ulnar, Arnold teaches the use of the heat retarding material which extends over the metacarpal phalangeal joint and the proximal interphalangeal joint of the thumb and not along the thumb proximal phalanx between these two joints as claimed in Claim 1.

Thus, Applicant urges in order to more fully explain the location of the heat retarding plates 8 of Arnold and the location in respect to the phalanxes of the fingers and joints in the palm portion of the hand, Exhibit A is included herewith which shows the location of the phalanxes and the appropriate joints specifically the proximal phalanxes, the metacarpals and the metacarpal phalangeal joints. As clearly shown, the heat retarding plates 8 cover the metacarpal phalangeal joints of all of the fingers in the palm area of the hand whereas in the instant invention, as claimed, padding is absent at the metacarpal phalangeal joints. Thus, Applicant urges that Arnold does not teach nor remotely suggests the instant claimed invention and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

The Examiner has cited several other references of prior art made of record and not relied upon as being pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure. Applicant has reviewed these references and has determined that none of these are more relevant than Arnold and therefore discussion of these references does not appear to be warranted.

Applicant urges that the instant application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes there are other unresolved issues in this case, Applicant's Attorney of record would appreciate a call at (502) 584-1135 to discuss such remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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EXHIBIT "A"

